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Keeping Posted

A couple of new stories, one from Washington and the other from Saigon, indicate how closely the Administration is keeping tabs on the political situation in Vietnam.

IN WASHINGTON on Tuesday, United Press International filed this story about the closed-door meeting between the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency:

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem., Ark.) said Tuesday after a briefing by Central Intelligence Director John A. McCone that there did not appear to be any immediate danger of the South Vietnam government being overthrown.

Fulbright told newsmen that violent demonstrations in Saigon and a number of other Vietnamese cities by Buddhist-led mobs were "very dis-

tressing," but he added: "I don't see any signs of another coup."

LATER ON Tuesday, a bulletin from the Associated Press announced:

SAIGON (AP) — Lt. Gen. Nguyen Khanh swept back into power in a bloodless coup today.

The only predictable thing about politics in Saigon is its unpredictability.

SENATOR FULBRIGHT once advised: "We need not toughness but tough-mindedness, that is, the ability to look facts in the face, however bitter they may be, to appraise them at their true worth and then to act calmly, judiciously and determinedly."

It's just that those facts, closed-door conferences with the CIA, or not, do not seem that eager to look us in the face, senator.

HOPEFULLY, THE CIA AND Senator Fulbright are not anticipating the stability of any other friendly governments soon.